

REMARKS

Applicants have received and reviewed the Office Action dated September 29, 2010. By way of response, Applicants have cancelled claims 3, 4, 9, 10, 13-16, 18, 21, 22, 24, 26, 27 and 30 without prejudice. No new matter has been added. Claims 1-2, 11, 29 and 31-33 are pending.

Applicants acknowledge and appreciate that claims 1, 2, 11, and 29 are allowed and that claims 9, 10, and 31 are directed to allowable subject matter.

Claim 31 has been amended to place it in independent form. Thus, this amended claim should be allowable.

New claims 32 and 33 include the recitations of claims 9 and 10, respectively, but depend from allowed claim 11. Thus, new claims 32 and 33 should be allowable.

Thus, the only remaining claims are in condition for allowance, and notification to that effect is earnestly solicited.

Claim Objection

Claim 18 was objected to due to a minor informality. Claim 18 has been canceled, which renders this objection moot. Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the objection.

Rejection of Claims Under 35 U.S.C. § 112, Second Paragraph

The Examiner rejected claims 13-16, 18, 21-22, 24, 26 and 30 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. These claims have been canceled, which renders this rejection moot. Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of this rejection.

Rejection of Claims Under 35 U.S.C. § 112, First Paragraph

The Examiner rejected claims 27 and 30 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph. The Examiner rejected claims 3-4, 13 and 22 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph. These claims have been canceled, which renders these rejections moot. Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of these rejections.

Summary

In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests a Notice of Allowance. If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would advance the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Please consider this a PETITION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME for a sufficient number of months to enter these papers or any future reply, if appropriate.

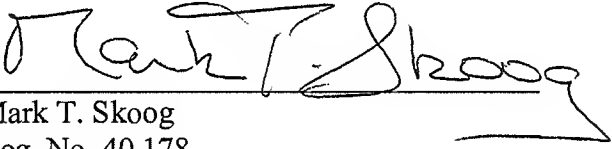
Please charge any additional fees or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 13-2725.

Respectfully submitted,

MERCHANT & GOULD P.C.
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Date: 29 Dec '10

MTS:kf


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